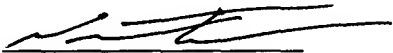


### REMARKS

Before examination on the merits of the above application, please enter the present Preliminary Amendment. By the amendment, claims 1 to 7 have been cancelled. The remaining claims 8 to 21 are those claims withdrawn from the parent application, Serial No. 09/726,951. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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